

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

The invention relates to an energy guide chain system comprising an energy guide chain for guiding cables, hoses or the like between a stationary and a movable connection point, and an entrainment portion to which the energy guide chain is connected by way of the movable connection point, wherein the energy guide chain is guided in the form of two runs which are guided in mutually parallel relationship and which are connected to each other by way of a deflection region, the entrainment portion has a movable arm which projects from the energy guide chain with a fastening side for connection to an apparatus which is movable relative to the fixed connection point, and wherein the spacing between the fastening side and the energy guide chain is variable in a travel component in transverse relationship with the longitudinal direction of the runs of the energy guide chain. ~~and a guide channel which has a hollow profile with a passage extending in the longitudinal direction for the entrainment portion, wherein the energy guide chain is guided in the guide channel in the longitudinal direction thereof in the form of two runs which are guided in mutually parallel relationship and which are connected to each other by way of a deflection region.~~ The invention further relates to a sliding door system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle body having a door opening, and a sliding door which for opening and closing is displaceable along a path which is non-linear relative to the vehicle body.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 19.

When guiding cables, hoses and the like, the problem which arises is that of guiding them in energy guide chain systems in such a way that they bridge over a non-linear path. Patent

specification DE 199 48 852 C1 discloses an energy guide chain system for an internal pivotal door or folding door of a vehicle, in which the movable arm is integrated into a holding arrangement of the internal pivotal door, which is mounted longitudinally slidably and pivotably in a linear guide rail which extends lengthwise relative to the body. In that arrangement the movable arm is integrated into a holding arrangement with a guide roller of the internal pivotal door, which is longitudinally slidably and pivotably mounted in a linear guide rail extending lengthwise relative to the body. In order to achieve satisfactory guidance for the energy guide chain or for continuing with the cables, a comparatively complicated construction is required for the movable arm, with complicated and expensive cable guide means. In addition the energy guide chain system of DE 199 48 852 C1 is only suitable for linear displacement, and not for non-linear displacement, of the movable arm, in a non-linear guide rail. In addition eccentric mounting of the holding arrangement in the guide rail means that the cables can be subjected to a heavier loading during the movement of the internal pivotal door.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 19 with the following amended paragraph.

~~When guiding cables, hoses and the like, the problem which arises is that of guiding them in energy guide chain systems in such a way that they bridge over a non-linear path.~~ That problem is further solved ~~for example~~ in accordance with US No 6 174 020 B1 in such a way that the individual links of an energy guide chain are also pivotable relative to each other in the transverse direction of the direction of displacement of the energy guide chain. That arrangement means however that the cables, hoses and the like which are guided in the energy guide chain are bent to the same degree and thus mechanically loaded. US No 6 174 020 B1 also discloses the use of energy guide chains of that kind in sliding door systems. In that case the energy guide

chain, except for a few guide elements, is guided freely in a region in the proximity of the door opening.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 31 with the following amended paragraph.

Therefore the object of the invention is to provide an energy guide chain system which has a simple connection between the energy guide chain and the fastening side and improved guidance for the energy guide chain and which makes it possible for cables, hoses and the like to be guided in such a way that they bridge over a non-linear path, under a low level of mechanical loading. A further object of the invention is to provide a sliding door system having reliable guidance for the energy guide chain.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 3 with the following amended paragraph.

That object is attained in that, ~~in an energy guide chain system of the kind set forth in the opening part of this specification, the entrainment portion has a movable arm which projects from the guide channel with a fastening side for connection to an apparatus movable relative to the guide channel, wherein the spacing between the fastening side and the guide channel is variable in a travel component in transverse relationship with the longitudinal direction of the guide channel.~~ there is provided a guide channel in the form of a hollow profile with two oppositely disposed side walls against which the side walls of the runs and the deflection region of the energy guide chain bear with a slight clearance, wherein the hollow profile has a passage extending in the longitudinal direction for the entrainment portion, and that the entrainment portion is arranged entirely outside the space extending between the two runs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10 with the following amended paragraph.

By virtue of the arrangement of the entrainment portion outside the space extending between the two runs, it is structurally possible for the movable arm to be capable of engaging the movable connection even in a form of movement which does not correspond to that of the energy guide chain, without thereby disturbing the proper movement of the energy guide chain.

The possibility of varying the spacing between the fastening side of the arm and the entrainment portion means that there is proposed an energy guide chain system in which the cables can be guided on a displacement path in the longitudinal direction of the guide channel and in a travel component transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction of the guide channel, that is to say in a movement with two linear degrees of freedom. The energy guide chain is connected to the entrainment portion which is guided in the passage, and the chain preferably bears with a slight clearance against the side walls of the guide channel. In that way the energy guide chain is linearly guided in the guide channel, that is to say it is displaceable in the longitudinal direction of the guide channel, while avoiding a transverse movement. That arrangement provides that the energy guide chain as well as the cables arranged therein are subjected to a minimum mechanical loading. In that case the guide channel itself additionally forms a protection space for the energy guide chain and also for its movable connection to the entrainment portion.